



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1289

DATE: September 13, 2013

TO: Iowa Medicaid Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) and Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability State (ICF/ID State) Facilities

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Coverage of Wheelchairs in an ICF/ID Facility

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2013

This Informational Letter announces a rule change affecting wheelchairs provided to members residing in ICF/ID facilities.

Beginning September 1, 2013, coverage of a wheelchair is allowed for a member who resides in an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual disability. Prior to this change, the facility was required to provide the wheelchair and to recover the costs in the cost report process. This change is a more efficient way to ensure access to the needed wheelchair and simplify the cost report process. Wheel chairs do not require a prior authorization (PA), however, obtaining a PA is recommended for members who have Medicaid only. Medicaid does not review prior authorization requests for members who have both Medicaid and Medicare when Medicare covers the item.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers were notified of the rule change in Informational Letter No. [1273](#) dated August 6, 2013. The DME provider will supply and bill the IME for the wheelchair.

The IME is aware that there are questions surrounding the ownership and the responsibilities relating to a member- owned wheelchair. Below is information on the most frequently asked questions:

- Wheelchairs supplied by a DME supplier and paid for by the IME are the property of the member.
- If the member is discharged from the facility, the member takes the wheelchair with them.
- At death, the wheelchair becomes part of the member's estate, similar to other personal effects.

For questions relating to Iowa Medicaid estate recovery please contact the Estate Recovery Unit at 877-463-7887 or locally in Des Moines at 515-246-9841 or email at estates@dhs.state.ia.us.

The IME appreciates your continued partnership as we work to improve the claim processing service quality and accuracy. If you have any questions please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.